(iv) Col.-338

(v) Lt. Col.-215

(vi) Lt . Col. (TS)-213

(vii) Maj.-42

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) and (b) of the Question.

Security of Andaman Islands

3968. DR. RAJA RAMANNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government taking into account the importance of the Andaman Islands, are considering increased security of these Islands, so that the traffic routes of our mercantile ships around it, are protected from buzzing and piracy by unfriendly countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : The Navy and the Coast Guard, individually and jointly, maintain regular surveillance in the seas around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands by deploying ships and aircrafts. Adequate preventive measures against buzzing and piracy of the ships at sea in the area have been instituted. No such incident has also been reported to the Navy or the Coast Guard in the recent past.

Aggressive Patrolling along LoC

3969. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while Pakistan has built up forces along the Line of Control, with positioning of its reserve brigades on Pak side of the LoC, the Indian army was asked to lay off aggressive patrolling on LoC on the eve of US President's visit to the sub-continent;

(b) whether the Pak move to position their reserve forces was considered a prelude to another Kargil like venture;

(c) if so, the reasons for lay off of effective patrolling; and

(d) what steps have since been taken for effective security of Indian side of LoC and to prevent any Pak-misadventure ?